4/10/71

Dear Howard,

It is clear that my recollection going back six or seven years was wrong on the statistics of the JFK withdrawal from Viet Nam. Yesterday and last night I read the Times States with a glass. It is possible from them to explain my recollection that 223 men were actually withdrawn. The story refers to 233 casualties for that week. However, I do not believe this was the source of my belief that 223 men did get out, did fly to the upper west coast.

JFK's language in the press conference is as specific as it can be. Al Dirty Dick did was put on his Tricky Dick face and pretend he invented it.

My interview with the general is, I think, my source for the 1700 figure. Either he used it as a specific figure or he said 10%, which is the same as 1,700, there having been 17,000 "advisers". Note also that the language used is likewise explicit and not indirect: troops, not "advisers".

There is an interesting and I think significant coincidence in the other major topic of that press conference, the Bargboorn case. This is where the CIA ;ied to JFK as they had with the U-2 to Ike. He had told them he'd stand behind B if he were an agent but the President must know the truth. They swore B was not an agent, and he was.

Remember the "scatter to the four winds" bit? I think it stems from this, that is, this lie.

I've misplaced my file of which this should be part. And I forget.

So, I'm starting a new one, in the "Tiger" file, labelled "Withdrawal".

If you have to remind me, that is where this will be.

Sincerely,